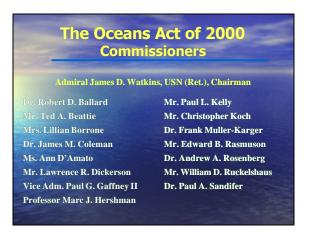
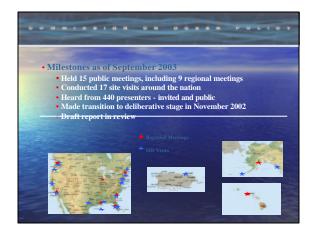
New Directions for US Ocean and Coastal Resource Management: A Report on Ongoing Work Of The US Commission on Ocean Policy Andrew A. Rosenberg Commissioner







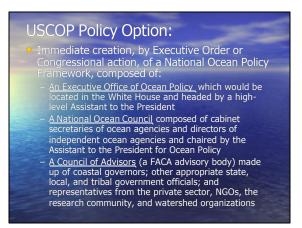
Observations, Challenges, Opportunities Our nation's capability to manage our coasts is clearly inadequate. Depletion of fish stocks continue. Ocean pollution is a growing problem. Water-borne commerce is essential to the Nation's economic well-being. Oceans and climate are inextricably linked but not nearly well enough understood.

Observations, Challenges, Opportunities Jurisdictional and legal confusion and ambiguity are huge problems. The lives of all Americans — landlocked as well as coastal— are inextricably affected by the ocean. And all Americans affect the ocean, wherever they live.

Topics Considered by USCOP Aquaculture Biodiversity Coastal Management Coral Resources Data Management Dredging/Sediments Ecosystem-Based Management Mana







The Executive Office and Council - working closely with state, local, and tribal government representatives, as well as the private sector, research community, non-governmental organizations, and watershed organizations – would help build support for passage of a National Ocean Policy Act.

Functions of a National Ocean Council

The following are illustrative of the types of functions of the National Ocean Council:

Coordinate Federal agency activities regarding the oceans

Implement and continuously improve Commission's recommendations and develop new policy as needs arise

Guide federal agency reorganization or consolidation based on Commission recommendations.

Create a national program to assess the status of ecosystems to provide critical goods and services.

NOC Functions continues Report on the state of the nation's oceans and progress in the implementation of the nation's ocean policy.

- progress in the implementation of the nation's ocean policy.
 Ensure leadership in international marine affairs.
 Develop a national ocean research plan
- Develop a national ocean data and information management system.
- Create and oversee the work of task groups formed to address specific ocean and coastal problems
- Coordinate the development of the next generation coastal zone management program.

NOC Functions

- Guide the creation of Regional Ocean Councils to facilitate ecosystem-based management.
- Pilot program ROCs would be developed by state, territorial, local, tribal and other interested entities (e.g. NGOs and industry groups) with fed agency support.
- Regional Ocean Councils are to coordinate and plan, not supplant existing legal authorities, such as those of Regional Fishery Management Councils or elements of state, tribal and local governments.

Regional Ocean Governance and Ecosystem-based Management

Facilitate the integration of regional plans for

- coastal management,
- living marine resources,
- pollution control,
- nonliving marine resources,
- conservation, and
- science and research needs, including social sciences.

USCOP Policy Option: Federal Agency Reorganization

- The Commission believes that consolidation/ reorganization at the Federal level is warranted.

 Consolidation should be of functions rather than entities to bring together pieces of a common problem
 - to bring together pieces of a common problem

 Look for leverage such that the whole is greater than the sum of its parts
 - Achieve efficiency in operations and management Link the systems related to atmosphere, earth and ocean for policy and science Enhance the linkage between science and policy programs
- A lead ocean agency is essential
 - Clearly, all programs can't be consolidated so program coordination is still essential with the NOC and ROCs to facilitate

USCOP Policy Option: Federal Agency Reorganization

- Functions that should be considered for consolidation:
 - Habitat protection and restoration
 - Protected species programs
 - Nonpoint source pollution
 - Fishery management
 - Watershed management
 - Data management systems
- Mission-oriented research
- Mapping
- Education
- International Leadership and operations
 - Enforcement

USCOP GUIDING PRINCIPLES RELATED TO SCIENCE

- Decision-making processes should be based on an understanding of natural and social processes and influences.
- To the extent possible, marine resource management should be ecosystems-based.
- A precautionary approach should be used in developing and implementing management plans.

Ecosystem - Based Management

 The USCOP's proposed definition of "ecosystem-based management" is: "managing human activities and potential impacts on species or resources within the context of their interactions with other species and the physical environment. The management framework should be multi-species and cross physical boundaries."

USCOP Policy Option: Proposed Definition of Precautionary Approach

The Precautionary Approach is applying judicious and responsible management practices, based on best available science, proactively rather than reactively, to ensure the sustainability of ecosystems for the benefit of future as well as current generations. Where there are threats of serious or irreversible damage, lack of full scientific certainty shall not be used as a reason for postponing action to prevent environmental degradation. Scientific assessment, monitoring, the potential for mitigation to reduce environmental risk, and appropriate periodic review of the precautionary restrictions should be part of the management plan.

Status of Ocean Science Funding

- Thirty of 50 US states have ocean or Great Lake coastlines
- ~50% or more of the US population lives within the coastal zone
- One of every 6 US jobs is marine-related
- Yet, only ~3.5% of the Federal budget for basic research is spent on ocean sciences, down from 7% 20+ years ago.

USCOP Policy Options Under Consideration: Research Funding

- The Administration should propose, at a minimum, a doubling of the Federal ocean research budget from today's \$630M to \$1.3B.
- Federal funding for technology should be on a par with the requested increase for ocean research to ensure the Nation has the requisite tools – including the Integrated Coastal and Ocean Observing and Prediction Systems -- to conduct a rigorous program of ocean science.

USCOP Policy Option: Ocean & Coastal Observing & Prediction Systems

- Must be a "whole-earth" system; need to understand ocean-atmosphere-land couplings (e.g., watersheds to ocean)
- Must have strong biological components
- Must incorporate satellite observations
- Must be integrated & coordinated across agencies, country and, to degree possible, internationally

USCOP Policy Option: Ocean & Coastal Observing & Prediction Systems

- Must have sustained, long-term support
- Must have plan to move to operational status
- Must address needs of multi-sector users: marine operations, research, education, monitoring

Marine Aquaculture: Problems

- Lack of consistent policy and regulatory frameworks
- Lack of technical information
- Concerns over environmental impacts

USCOP Policy Options: Marine Aquaculture

- The NOC should incorporate marine aquaculture within an overall plan for mapping, managing, developing and conserving US federal waters.
- The Joint Subcommittee on Aquaculture would be placed under the auspices of the NOC.
- The lead ocean agency should lead on marine aquaculture.
- National standards and operating procedures should be established to minimize adverse environmental effects of marine aquaculture

USCOP Policy Options: Use & Review of Scientific Information in Fisheries Management

- Require a rigorous peer-review system for stock assessments, assessment methodologies, etc.
- Require RFMCs to form and use Scientific & Statistical Committees (SSCs) appointed from list of qualified experts provided by the RFMC and vetted by the National Research Council.
- Develop clear conflict of interest guidelines for SSC members

Fishery Management

- The SSCs would set Allowable Biological Catch (ABC); the RFMC must manage with the ABC
- If a plan that stays within ABC is not developed and approved the fishery doesn't proceed

Fishery Management

- Expand science and stock assessment capability
- Cooperative Research expand and consolidate programs
- Enforcement expand state cooperative agreements
- Enforcement implement mandatory VMS nationwide
- EFH change and prioritize